

Amendments in the Claims: (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A light bulb socket and mounting combination
5 comprising:
 - a socket assembly having a bottom wall and a peripheral wall being attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said peripheral wall having an upper edge defining an opening extending into said socket, said opening having an inner threaded surface adapted for threadably coupling with a light bulb, said opening having a pair of electrical contacts therein,
10 a power cord extending through said socket assembly and being electrically coupled to each of said electrical contacts;
 - a male coupler being attached to a surface of said bottom wall and extending downwardly therefrom; and
- 15 a stake having a bottom end, a top end and a perimeter wall extending between said top and bottom ends, said bottom end being pointed, said top end being substantially flat, said top end having a female coupler extending therein for selectively coupling with said male coupler a plurality of flanges being attached to and extending outwardly from said perimeter wall, each of said flanges extending from and tapers from said top end to said bottom end such that each of said flanges ends adjacent to said bottom end.
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Claims 2-4 (cancelled)

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5. (original) The combination of claim 1, wherein said socket assembly further includes:
 - an outer covering having an upper open end and a bottom open end, said peripheral wall extending between said upper and bottom open ends;
- 30 a bridge being mounted in and extending across said covering, said bridge being positioned nearer said bottom open end than said top open end;

a first contact of said pair of contacts being mounted in said bridge and having a first end extending downwardly away from said bridge and a second end mounted on said bridge;

5 a second contact of said pair of contacts being mounted in said bridge and having a first end extending downwardly away from said bridge and a second end extending upwardly along an inner surface of said covering, each of said first ends of said first and second contacts extending into said power cord;

10 a cap member including said bottom wall and a pair of arms extending upwardly from said bottom wall, wherein said arms may be extended upwardly through said bottom open end on either side of said bridge such that said arms are removably secured in said covering, each of said arms having an inside surface facing each other, each of said inside surfaces being threaded for threadably coupling with the light bulb; and

15 a gripping member being attached to said bottom wall and being positioned between said arms, said gripping member having elongated channels therein for receiving said power cord, wherein said gripping member biases said power cord against said first ends of said first and second contacts such that said first ends puncture said power cord.

20 Claims 6-7 (cancelled)

8. (original) The combination of claim 1, wherein said male coupler comprises a threaded rod and said female coupler comprises a threaded aperture adapted for threadably coupling said threaded rod.

25 9. (original) A light bulb socket and mounting combination comprising: a plurality of socket assemblies each having a bottom wall and a peripheral wall being attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, each of said peripheral walls having an upper edge defining an opening extending into said socket, each of said openings having an inner threaded surface adapted for threadably coupling with a light bulb, a power cord extending

through each of said socket assemblies, each of said socket assemblies having a pair of electrical contacts mounted within a corresponding one of said openings, each of said electrical contacts being electrically coupled to said power cord;

5 a plurality of male couplers, each of said male couplers being attached to a surface of said bottom wall and extending downwardly therefrom, each of said male couplers comprising a threaded rod; and

a plurality of stakes, each of said stakes having a bottom end, a top end and a perimeter wall extending between said top and bottom ends, each of said bottom ends being pointed, each of said top ends being substantially flat, each of said top ends having a female coupler extending therein, each of said female couplers comprising a threaded well adapted for threadably coupling with one of said male couplers, a plurality of flanges being attached to and extending outwardly from each of said perimeter walls, each of said flanges extending from and tapering from a respective one of said top ends to said bottom ends such that each of said flanges ends adjacent to said bottom ends, said plurality of flanges being four flanges attached to each of said stakes.

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